

Regular Meeting of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization
Washington Conservation District, 455 Hayward Ave N
Remote Locations: 5312 Fourwinds Way, Fort Pierce, FL 34949
Thursday, April 11th, 2024
6:00PM

Present: Brian Zeller, Lakeland Shores; Carly Johnson, Oak Park Heights; Tom McCarthy, Lake St. Croix Beach (remote); Annie Perkins, Afton; Dave Millard, Lakeland; Ryan Collins, Stillwater; Avis Peters, Baytown; Administrator Matt Oldenburg-Downing; Rebecca Oldenburg-Downing, WCD; Amanda Herbrand, WCD; Erik Anderson, WCD
Audience: Jen Kader; Dawn Bulera; Rachel Dana; Georgia Eilertson

Call to Order

Manager Zeller called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

Approval of Agenda

Manager Perkins motioned to approve the agenda, Manager Johnson seconded the motion.

Hybrid meetings rules state all motions require a roll call vote and on first roll call vote participating remote attendees are to state their reason for being remote.

Manager McCarthy states he is out of town.

The motion carried on a roll call vote with all in favor.

Approval of Minutes

Manager Collins motioned to approve the draft February 8th, 2024 board meeting minutes, and Manager Johnson seconded the motion. Manager Olfelt-Nelson abstained. The motion carried on a roll call vote.

Treasurer's Report

Manager Olfelt-Nelson presented the treasurer's report. The remaining checking account balance on April 11th was \$161,436.21. First Bank CD's were valued at \$38,549.15. The ending value on the RBC savings account from March was \$94,023.65.

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing notes that there is an additional amount of approximately \$175,00.00 in CDs that are not shown on the treasurer's report and that they should be shown on the report for next meeting.

Bills to approve this month are eight bills to the Washington Conservation District for Admin, EMWREP, Plan, Technical Services, and Water Monitoring totaling \$33,366.15. Manager Olfelt-Nelson motioned to accept the treasurer's report and approve payment of bills for \$33,366.15 for April 11th, 2024. Manager Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote with all in favor.

Public Comment

None

Watershed Management Plan Updates

Rebecca Oldenburg-Downing from the Washington Conservation District states the meeting is also serving as the Initial Planning Meeting for the management plan update under Minnesota Rule 8410.0045 Subp. 5.

Rebecca Oldenburg-Downing gave a summary of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting that was held in-person on February 26th. TAC suggested priorities for the plan update, and new suggestions not present in the current plan include: water capacity and consumption, higher engineering review for high vulnerability Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMA), water pollution impacts (such as PFAS, failing septic, chloride), wetland restoration and banking opportunities, environmental justice, administrative staff capacity and funding, reduction of residential development impact and expansion of impervious definition, redevelopment standards, shoreline and floodplain ordinances, ordinance development for pollution prevention (chloride), adoption of DNR ordinances, climate resiliency, infrastructure maintenance and restoration, direct landowner education for landowners on bluff land, perpetuity of BMPs, and increased review fees. The board provided feedback for some of these items and asked for Rebecca to come back with more information about some of the items. Board members state deferring to Rebecca Oldenburg-Downing's expertise when making final decisions. When asked if the board wants further technical advice, they deferred to Rebecca Oldenburg-Downing's judgement.

Rebecca Oldenburg-Downing also mentioned the Community Engagement Event held in-person on March 19th. There were three attendees at this event, and no feedback to summarize. A Community and Stakeholder Survey has received many responses. So far the top concerns from the responses show: sustainability of groundwater supplies, water conservation, and contamination of groundwater from "forever chemicals"; sediment and trash accumulation in and around waterbodies; pollutants in stormwater runoff (e.g. road salt, chemicals, nutrients) entering surface waters; aquatic invasive plant species (e.g. curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil) and aquatic invasive animal species (e.g. carp, zebra mussels). Rebecca Oldenburg-Downing asked the board how long they would like the survey to stay active, Manager Zeller stated as long as possible. Administrator Oldenburg-Downing suggested June, the board agreed. When asked if the board wants further community engagement, Manager Zeller stated yes, if Rebecca finds more opportunities that seem worthwhile, but that a good effort has been made already and further community engagement opportunities seem unlikely.

For the 60-Day Input feedback, MSCWMO received feedback from seven entities: Washington County, Board of Soil and Water Resources, Metropolitan Council, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The feedback is available on the MSCWMO website on the Management Plan Update page. Feedback items not in the current plan were highlighted and summarized by Rebecca and include: considerations for limiting infiltration, limiting future pollutant-generating development activities within highly and moderately vulnerable DWSMAs, environmental justice, climate change and vulnerability.

Old Business

None

New Business

2024 Officer Appointments

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing informs the board officer appointments need to be confirmed for 2024 and reminds the board of current officer assignments. Manager Johnson motions to roll over the 2023 officer appointments to 2024. Manager Collins seconds the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote with all in favor.

Brian Zeller-Chair

Tom McCarthy-Vice Chair

Annie Perkins-Secretary

Beth Olfelt-Nelson-Treasurer

2024 Workshop on the Water Funding Request

The Lower St. Croix Partnership, EMWREP, and Washington County are planning to sponsor a workshop on the river to provide education and networking to local officials with ties to the river and are seeking support from local entities. Administrator Oldenburg-Downing is seeking approval for MSCWMO to support this effort in the amount of \$500.00 as the workshop will benefit all 10 member communities.

Manager Zeller motioned to approve the payment of \$500.00 for the 2024 Workshop on the Water. Manager Olfelt-Nelson seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote with all in favor.

2023 Water Monitoring Report Draft

Erik Anderson from the Washington Conservation District presented the 2023 Water Monitoring Report Draft and provided a summary for the board. The board asked questions regarding chloride and requested chloride sampling be added for MSCWMO lakes. The report will be posted to the MSCWMO website once approved by the board.

Grant and Cost Share Applications

Drinkwine Pollinator Planting

Lake St. Croix Beach resident Kathy Drinkwine is applying for a Landscaping for Habitat Grant to establish a 500 square-foot pollinator garden at 1590 Riviera Ave S, Lake St. Croix Beach, MN. The applicant received a MSCWMO Landscaping for Habitat grant in April of 2023, but was not able to proceed with installation until spring of 2024. Kathy Drinkwine has submitted receipts for work performed in March/April of 2024 (installation of native perennials), totaling \$385.39 in material costs. Staff recommended an encumbrance of \$250.00.

Manager Perkins motioned to approve encumbrance and reimbursement of \$250.00 for the installation of the Drinkwine Pollinator Planting. Manager Millard seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote with all in favor.

Paulson Pollinator Planting

Lake St. Croix Beach resident Jeannie Paulson is applying for the Landscaping for Habitat Grant

to establish a 250 square-foot pollinator garden at 16681 16th St S, Lakeland, MN 55043. Staff recommended an encumbrance of \$250.00.

Manager Zeller motioned to approve encumbrance of \$250.00 cost share for the installation of the Paulson Pollinator Planting. Manager Perkins seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote with all in favor.

Siegler Shoreline Buffer Enhancement

Stillwater resident Gayle Siegler is applying for the Landscaping for Water Quality Grant to install native herbaceous perennials and shrubs along a steep stretch of shoreline (approximately 50 linear feet) on Lake McKusick for improved stabilization and habitat enhancement. Staff recommended an encumbrance of \$500.00.

Manager Zeller motioned to approve encumbrance of \$375.00 due to low project estimate and the steep slopes on site and brush removal making vegetation establishment difficult. Manager Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote with all in favor.

Plan Reviews/Submittals

LSCB Stair 9 Stabilization – ACTION

An application for project review was received on March 15th for proposed riprap bank stabilization at Stair 9 in Lake St. Croix Beach. A project review was triggered since the project will involve grading within the bluffline and OHW setbacks. MSCWMO staff has recommended approval with two conditions:

1. SWPPP narrative must include ESC inspection requirements, amendment procedures and pollution prevention management measures.
2. A grading permit from the zoning administrator is obtained and city code variance is granted.

Manager Johnson motioned to approve the project with the two conditions. Manager Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote with all in favor.

395 Lakeside Drive Home Reconstruction – ACTION

An application for project review for a proposed home reconstruction at 395 Lakeside Drive South in Stillwater was received March 18th, 2024. The project involves building additions, conversion of the basement/foundation in to an internally flooded enclosed area and moving impervious structures in violation of the OHW setback. A project review was triggered since the project creates more than 500 square feet of new/reconstructed impervious in the St. Croix Riverway. MSCWMO staff recommends approval with two conditions:

1. CUP application is reviewed by the MnDNR for compliance with NFIP regulations for internally flooded enclosed areas and non-conversion agreement deed restriction is recorded.
2. Erosion prevention product types and stabilization timeframes are provided on the plans.

Manager Peters motioned to approve the project with the two conditions. Manager Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote with all in favor.

Erosion and Sediment Control Inspection Reports

None

Staff Report

Administrator Downing presented the staff report. Field season for BMP maintenance and Water Monitoring are beginning. During the months of February, March, and April Administrator Downing attended sixteen meetings. Other activities continue as normal.

1W1P Updates

None

Other

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing informed the board he will be out this fall on family leave.

Adjourn

Manager Collins motioned to adjourn the meeting, Manager Perkins seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:15.